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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 00729 111414Z

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 NIC-01 ACDA-18 E-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01
PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-12 TRSY-11 BOB-01 RSR-01 /150 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5926
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USMISSION USNATO

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 7/15/80
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 729

SUBJ: RED STAR ATTACKS US DEFENSE BUDGET

REF: MOSCOW 661, 625, 583 DEF 1 US

DEF 1 2 US

1. RED STAR (FEB 11), IN LATEST SOVIET PRESS ATTACK ON DEFENSE PORTION FY71 BUDGET, CLAIMS SUM ALLOTTED TO PENTAGON, DESPITE APPARENT REDUCTIONS, IS "REMARKABLY MORE AGGRESSIVE IN CHARACTER" THAN CURRENT BUDGET.

2. ANALYZING BUDGET FIGURES, COMMENTATOR BEREZIN'S MAIN POINT IS THAT ADMINISTRATION IS STEPPING UP PRODUCTION OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE WEAPONS; HE MENTIONS "POSEIDON ROCKETS EQUIPPED WITH MULTIPLE WARHEADS", F-15, AND SHORT RANGE OFFENSIVE MISSELS FOR NEWEST BOMBERS. HE NOTES APPROPRIATIONS FOR SAFEGUARD, LEAVING IMPRESSION THIS ALSO OFFENSIVE WEAPON. HE SAYS REDUCTIONS IN UNSPECIFIED AREAS ARE OF SECONDARY IMPORTANCE, AND CONCLUDES THAT PRESIDENT'S "NEW STRATEGY" INDICATES RETURN TO POLICY OF "BIG STICK".

3. COMMENT: BEREZIN'S ANALYSIS CONSTITUTES FIRST INDEPENDENT SOVIET CRITICISM OF NEW US DEFENSE BUDGET. CONTRARY TO EARLIER COMMENTS, WHICH RELIED CHIEFLY ON US CRITICISM OF ADMINISTRATION'S BUDGET AND TENDED TO EMPHASIZE POTENTIAL IMPACT ON DOMESTIC NEEDS (ALTHOUGH INFLUENCE ON SALT ALSO MENTIONED), RED STAR ARTICLE ENTIRELY DEVOTED TO STRATEGIC-OFFENSIVE NATURE OF PROPOSED DEFENSE

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